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Oceans and the law of the sea: oceans and the law of the sea

Letter dated 19 October 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the following:

- A note verbale, Ref. No. 7/2/1/328359, dated 7 October 2012, addressed to you by the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, alerting you to infringements committed by the Islamic Republic of Iran (see annex).
- A note verbale, Ref. No. 7/2/1/327421, dated 6 October 2012, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, addressed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, protesting about the infringement by Iran of the off-shore oil facilities in the eastern region of the Kingdom (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 75 (a).

(*Signed*) Abdallah Yahya A. **Al-Mouallimi**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 19 October 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia presents its compliments to the United Nations Secretary-General, and would like to draw to the latter's attention the fact that at 0853 hours on Wednesday, 6 Ramadan A.H. 1433 (25 July A.D. 2012), an Iranian helicopter circled several times over oil rig sites Nos. ADC-38 and NRL-337 in the Hasba field.

Furthermore, at 0715 hours on Thursday, 7 Ramadan A.H. 1433 (26 July A.D. 2012), two Iranian military launches intercepted and stopped a vessel belonging to a Saudi Aramco contractor in the Arabia field area.

Those two fields are Saudi Arabian off-shore fields, as set forth in the agreement concluded between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 2 Sha'ban A.H. 1388 (24 October A.D. 1968), in which the line demarcating the border between the two countries' off-shore fields is delineated.

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has protested about this conduct and demanded, in note verbale No. 7/2/1/327421 dated 20 Dhu'lqa'dah A.H. 1433 (6 October A.D. 2012), addressed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, a copy of which is hereby transmitted to you, that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran ensures that it is not repeated. The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reserves its right to take any action it deems fit in order to protect its waters and oil installations, and holds the Iranian authorities fully responsible for all possible consequences.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia requests the United Nations Secretary-General to circulate the present note verbale and the annexed note verbale comprising the protest of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to all States Members of the United Nations and have it published in the forthcoming issue of the Law of the Sea Bulletin.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia takes this opportunity to convey to the United Nations Secretary-General the assurances of its highest consideration.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the fraternal Islamic Republic of Iran, and would like to draw to the latter's attention the fact that at 0853 hours on Wednesday, 6 Ramadan A.H. 1433 (25 July A.D. 2012), an Iranian helicopter circled several times over oil rig sites Nos. ADC-38 and NRL-337 in the Hasba field area.

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The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia objects to this conduct and demands that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran ensures that it is not repeated. The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reserves its right to take any action it deems fit in order to protect its waters and oil installations, and holds the Iranian authorities fully responsible for all possible consequences.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia takes this opportunity to convey to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran the assurances of its highest consideration.